

# Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program 2008-09

## Applicant Guide:

### *Septic System Inspections & Upgrades*



#### **WHY APPLY FOR THIS FUND?**

To protect municipal groundwater and surface water sources through repairing, upgrading or replacing part or all of faulty or malfunctioning septic systems. Not maintaining your septic system can result in contamination of drinking water sources and can cause serious environmental and health problems.

#### **ELIGIBLE TARGETED AREAS**

To be eligible to receive funding for the following projects, the applicant's property must be within or extend into the following areas:

- 100-metre radius around a municipal wellhead
- 200-metre radius around a municipal surface water intake
- The two-year time of travel of a municipal wellhead approved by the local municipality and/or
- The intake protection zone-one (IPZ-1) of a municipal surface water intake, approved by the local municipality (*see Program Terms & Conditions for more information*).

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

- Replace septic tank and leaching bed
- Replace septic tank and/or holding tank only
- Replace leaching bed only
- Pump septic tank
- Add plumbing connections/pump to transfer wastewater to septic tank and/or leaching bed
- Connect to a municipal sewer line and the decommissioning of the existing septic system – both projects required to be completed in order to receive funding. *\*\*If this option is available, we will not fund other upgrades or replacement - See Program Terms & Conditions for more information\*\**

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS**

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Required permits and approvals, such as building permit for approved project(s)
- Material and supplies
- Contract labour (e.g., electric and plumbing connections)
- Professional fees/technical support
- Fees for related design, inspection, and construction
- Connection fees and related work to connect to a municipal sewer line

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#### **INELIGIBLE PROJECTS & COSTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

- Upgrades that are part of a new home construction or home addition.
- Funding provided from additional programs/projects (e.g., Water Quality Programs) will be reviewed by the program administrators to determine grant rate. Applicants may not apply for more than 100 percent of the total cost of their project. (*Providing inaccurate information on the portion of project funding received by other agencies is an offence*).

**GRANT RATE: MAXIMUM 80%**

**GRANT CEILING: \$7,000 FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

**GRANT CEILING: \$15,000 FOR ADVANCED SEPTIC SYSTEMS (SEE PAGE 2)**

#### **PROGRAM TERMS & CONDITIONS**

##### Eligible Areas

- For the 2008-09 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) funding, applicant's property must be within or extend into the following areas:
  - 100-metre radius around a municipal wellhead
  - 200-metre radius around a municipal surface water intake
  - The two-year time of travel of a municipal wellhead approved by the local municipality and/or
  - The intake protection zone-one (IPZ-1) of a municipal surface water intake, approved by the local municipality (*Please contact your program administrators, the local conservation authority or the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for more information*).
- For the 2-year time of travel and the IPZ-1 to be approved eligible areas under the ODWSP, one of the following requirements must be met:
  - The 2 year-time of travel and the IPZ-1 have been incorporated into a Municipal Official Plan;
  - The municipality has accepted the 2-year time of travel and/or the IPZ-1 delineation by council resolution specifically for the Municipal Official Plan, or
  - The municipality has accepted the 2-year time of travel and/or the IPZ-1 delineation by council resolution specifically for the ODWSP.
- If a council resolution is not passed by the local municipality, the program administrators are restricted to allocating funding to applicants that are within the 100-metre radius around a municipal wellhead and/or a 200-metre radius around a municipal surface water intake.

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#### **Definitions**

- Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA): means an area that is related to a wellhead and within which it is desirable to regulate or monitor drinking water threats. The area is made up of zones based on a 100-metre radius area around the well, including a 2-year time of travel capture zone. These are not circles drawn around the wellhead; each is a different shape based on local conditions, the nature of the subsurface area, and the rate and direction of groundwater flow. *(Please contact your program administrator, the local conservation authority for more information).*
  
- Surface Water Intake Protection Zone (IPZ): means an area that is related to a surface water intake and within which it is desirable to regulate or monitor drinking water threat. An IPZ-1 is based on a fixed distance from the water intake. For example, for a lake-fed system, this is a 1 kilometre radius and for a river-fed system it would be a 200-metre semi-circle upstream from the intake extending a set distance on land where it intersects land. For river intakes, the semicircle is extended downstream a fixed distance of a minimum of ten metres to account for overland flow, possible backflow, and up gradient diffusion. These distances may vary based on local conditions. *(Please contact your program administrators, the local conservation authority or the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for more information).*
  
- Municipal Drinking Water Systems: defined under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, are those municipal systems that are municipally owned and serve six or more private residences or service connections.

#### **Application Process**

- Applicant must complete one application form per septic system upgrade/repair.
  
- Each septic system that is upgraded/repared is considered one project for the purposes of funding. There is no limit on the number of projects for which the applicant may apply.
  
- A copy of an inspection report from a qualified industry professional/septic inspector must be submitted with the application form.
  
- The proposed inspection, upgrade, repair, and request for funding are subject to approval by the program administrator to ensure compliance within acceptable standards and for confirmation of funding availability/eligibility.
  
- Funding provided from additional programs/projects will be reviewed by the program administrators to determine the applicable grant rate. The applicant must declare to the program administrators any funding from other projects and programs.
  
- Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis for eligible projects, until all funds are allocated or September 30, 2009, whichever occurs first.

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- Following the completion of the work, the applicant is responsible for submitting a statement of expenses incurred with copies of invoice(s) and building permit for the required corrective action(s). The program administrator is not responsible for making any payments directly to industry professionals hired by the applicant.
- The proposed project that has been approved by the program administrator must be completed, with final invoices submitted to the program administrator no later than September 30, 2009. *(Please contact your program administrators, the local conservation authority or the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for more information).*
- The program administrator will be permitted by the property owner to access the site where the work is being completed during and after construction for a post project inspection/verification of work.

#### **Terms & Conditions for Septic System Inspection & Upgrade Projects**

- Septic inspections and upgrades that have recently been implemented will be eligible for funding as long as the proposed work was started on or after September 19, 2006, when the funding was announced.
- The ODWSP will cover 80 percent of the project(s) cost, with a grant ceiling of \$7,000 for the eligible projects. Alternatively, the program will cover 80 percent of the project(s) with a grant ceiling of \$15,000 for advanced septic systems.
- Advanced Septic Systems: Many contractors will offer the option to install advanced septic systems, at an additional cost, for reducing environmental impact. Examples of advanced septic systems can be found at: <http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/PageFactory.aspx?PageID=50>. Also, for more information on innovated septic system designs, please contact a qualified industry professional in your local area.
- If a municipal sewer line is available, the ODWSP will only pay for an inspection and the costs of connection to that line. The program will pay 80% up to the \$7,000 limit. Other upgrades or replacement are not eligible in this case.
- Septic inspections are eligible for funding under the ODWSP. However, if the results of the inspection reveal the septic to be faulty, the inspection costs will only be covered by the ODWSP if the identified problem with the septic system is corrected. Upgrades and repairs recommended through the septic inspection are also eligible for funding under the ODWSP.
- Funding is not available for upgrades that are part of a new home construction or home addition project.

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- Rented land - If your project is on rented/leased land, you will need to submit a letter from the property owner with your application form indicating that the owner approves of the proposed project.
- Systems <10,000l/day are subject to approval under the Building Code and those that are >10,000l/day are approved under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA).
- Applicant is responsible for ensuring that all necessary approvals and permits are obtained for the proposed project(s) (e.g., building permit).
- The applicant will be responsible for all payments and for hiring qualified industry professionals (i.e., those that meet the qualifications specified in the *Building Code Act*). Contact your local municipality, public health unit, or conservation authority for more information on septic inspections.
- The septic system has to be constructed, repaired, or installed by a person or company that is qualified or registered under Section 18.1 of **the Building Code Act** and Section 2.12 of **the Ontario Building Code**.
- These early actions address a potential risk to drinking water sources. The Source Protection Plans, expected to be finalised in 2012 on a region-by-region basis, will determine the measures necessary to protect wellheads and surface water intakes. Therefore, taking early actions, like upgrading or repairing a septic system, does not exempt the property owner from implementing additional practices as determined in that local Source Protection Plan. Property owners may be required to implement additional practices in the future to continue to protect drinking water sources.